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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/929,821 | 08/14/2001 | I-Fan Wang | USFFIL.121A | 8832 |
| 20995 | 7590 | 06/03/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP | | | MENON, KRISHNAN S | |
| 2040 MAIN STREET | | | ART UNIT | |
| FOURTEENTH FLOOR | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| IRVINE, CA 92614 | | | 1723 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Attachment to the Interview Summary

This interview was to discuss some discrepancies noticed in the applicants' affidavit filed 2/17/04.

Applicants used the formulation given by example 1 of the Wang'899 reference, in which polysulfone was substituted by cellulose acetates, to make a cellulosic membrane to demonstrate that the Wang'899 reference was not enabling to make cellulosic membranes without macrovoids. By this affidavit, applicants intended to overcome the rejection of the pending claims by the Wang'899 reference. On review of the reference with respect to the specification of the pending application, it was found that the formulation used in the affidavit fell very much within the ranges of components and compositions disclosed by the application, as shown in the table below:

| <u>Applicants' affidavit</u> | <u>Applicants' Specification discloses (p 9-11)</u> |
|--|---|
| 65.9% N-methyl pyrrolidone | 30-80% as solvent |
| 4.3% polyvinyl pyrrolidone | 0.1 – 10% as 'surface porosity agent' |
| 1.8% water and 19% polyethylene glycol | 5-55%, alone or mixed, as non-solvents |
| rest cellulosic polymers | 3-20%, as membrane polymer. |
| | (see examples 3 and 4 also) |

In response, applicants requested time to for another interview after further reviewing the application and the affidavit to take into account process parameters not listed in the affidavit, which could have contributed to the formation of macrovoids.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S Menon whose telephone number is 571-272-1143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Krishnan Menon
Patent Examiner


W. L. WALKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700